



## **CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

### **MINUTES**

May 20, 2021, 5PM

Members present: Meagan Benetti, Ben Echevarria, Zoe Iacovino, Jessica Lieberman, Laura Pitone, Kat Rutkin, Beverly (Bev) Schwartz, Crystal Turner, William (Bill) White

Members not present: Ona Ferguson, Emily Monea, Lucas Schaber

Staff attending: Hope Williams, Collins Center - Libby Corbo, Mike Ward, Marilyn Contreas, Steve McGoldrick

Other attending: Pat Cain, Stephen Mackey

Meeting started at 5:00PM

#### **Decisions:**

1. Committee approved meeting minutes from 4/28.
  - a. Eight 5s

*The committee uses the Fist to Five method of voting, a technique for gauging consensus. Voting ranges from 0 to 5. The scale is: 0 - no way, 1 - major issues to be resolved now, 2 - minor issues to be resolved now, 3 - minor issues to be resolved later, 4 - comfortable with this as it is, 5 - love this and will champion it. 0-2 is considered a lack of consensus, while 3-5 is considered consensus.*

#### **Meeting Minutes:**

1. Welcome - 5:01
  - a. Hope welcomed the committee.
2. Approve 4/28 Minutes - 5:05
  - a. Minutes from April 28th were approved. One adjustment mentioned was to accurately reflect the values section: responsive/innovative change to responsive. This was changed in the document before submission to the website.
3. Collins Center Presentation - 5:10
  - a. Mike, the Director of the Collins Center, introduced their team and presentation. The presentation gave committee members information on building a new charter, modern charter structures, and their work on comparable municipalities. The presentation can be found [here](#).

- b. The Collins Center staff led a Q&A discussion to answer questions from Committee members. Common themes were: Charter versus ordinance, the process after the committee submits recommendations, budget and finance regulations, and the spectrum between strong mayor and city manager forms of government.
4. Community Engagement Update - 6:30
  - a. Meagan presented an overview from the community engagement working group's initial proposal and overall ideas. The working group wanted to emphasize the importance of ensuring diverse voices are included, bringing in those typically under-represented, and using these voices as a driving factor in committee decisions. The working group also emphasized the importance of connecting potential charter changes to the daily lives of citizens.
  - b. Committee discussed other important facets of successful community engagement strategy including: expediting educational materials, engaging all Somerville residents in their own communities, and hosting a kick off event to launch community engagement.
5. Budget Proposal - 6:55
  - a. Hope presented the budget proposal and asked for input. Primary suggestion was to ensure translators/interpreters, printing/stationery, and postage were adequately funded, as these are central to the community engagement strategy.
6. Closing Notes and Action Items - 7:00
  - a. The values statement discussion was pushed to the next meeting for time, and Hope reminded the committee that the next meeting is June 3rd at 5pm.

Meeting concluded at 7:05PM

*Next meeting date – The next meeting date will be June 3rd at 5PM. It will be held remotely using zoom. Instructions to join the meeting will be provided on the meeting agenda posted at City Hall and on the City's website.*

Documents distributed:

- Collins Center Charter 101 Presentation
- Budget Proposal
- Community Engagement Proposal